

Build your anti-library!

An anti-library is your personal collection of books that you want to read in the future. It helps you plan your reading and lets you focus in advance on topics you want to learn about, people you want to learn from, and stories you want to explore.

Building an anti-library can be a daunting task. Use this worksheet to help you build yours!

Answer the prompts and you'll end up with a list of books to buy.

What are some cities you've never visited, but would like to?

Get a book about one of those cities—either nonfiction, or fictional and set in that city.

What's a place you would never want to go to? Too busy, too boring, too dangerous?

Get a book about that place—maybe it'll change your mind.

Name a famous musician, politician, author, and historical figure.

Get biographies about each one of them—see if you can learn what they'd bring to the table.

What's your favorite music genre?

Get a book about the history of that genre, or a biography of one of its most famous musicians.

What are your favorite movies?

If one is based on a book, go read the book. Or get a book about the director or one of the lead actors.

What are your favorite seasons?

Get a book that takes place during that time of year. Set a reminder to read that book when the season comes and you can immerse yourself in it.

What's a part of your country that you've never been to?

Pick a book set in that region—learn more about your countrymen without leaving home.

What were your parents' jobs?

Get books about their jobs or industries. Find out what may have enticed them to pick those careers.

Name two philosophers you've heard about but never read.

Pick up one of their most famous works, or an intro if it's especially complicated. Or you could buy a biography of that philosopher.

If you could pick an era of world history to live in, what would it be?

Get two books about that era, one fiction and one nonfiction. Learn what really happened, and then try to find the deeper truth via fiction.

Name a news story from the past year that you were particularly interested in.

Read a book about that news story. Or get a book by one of the journalists who broke it.

Write down two languages you don't speak.

Now buy books originally written in those languages and translated into your own.

What's your favorite animal?

Get a book about that animal, or about what role it plays in our society.

What's a skill you've always wanted to learn?

Buy a book written by someone who has mastered that skill. It doesn't have to be instructional; try getting their biography instead.

What's your favorite building?

Purchase a book about the architect who designed it, or one of the people who lived in it.

What's a modern trend or phenomenon that you're concerned about?

Get two books explaining the phenomenon. Try to cover it from multiple perspectives—get one book by a politician and one by a historian, for example.

For each day of the Read to Lead reading challenge, we've given you a list of books. What list was your favorite?

Get the two most interesting books from that list.

Suppose you had a one-year sabbatical where you could learn about anything. What would it be?

Get two books on that topic—and start learning.

Who is the historical figure you most identify with?

Get a biography about that person. See if you still identify with them once you reach the last page.

Name a religion that interests you.

Buy a book written by an author who writes from that religion's perspective.

Name three devices that you use every day.

Get books that discuss those devices—who invented them, their successes and failures, and their impacts on society.

Name two of your hobbies.

Get books about each of those hobbies and try to broaden your understanding of them. Or track down fiction books with protagonists who also enjoy those hobbies.

What was a topic in high school that wasn't covered which you were hoping would be?

Get a book about that topic and cover some new ground.

When you're using a computer, what's your favorite website to visit?

Read a book about that website or the company behind it. Alternatively, find a book about the technology that makes that website possible.



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